

House Resolution No. 2113

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives are pleased and proud to honor Show-Me State natives who bring glory and honor to themselves and to this great state through the exceptional nature of their accomplishments in life; and

Whereas, Frank W. Buckles was born on a farm near Bethany, Missouri, on February 1, 1901, and he joined the United States Army in April 1917 at the age of sixteen after finding a recruiter who was willing to believe that birth records were not kept by state government and that the only record of his birth was a family Bible that was not in his possession; and

Whereas, Frank Buckles rose to the rank of Corporal during World War I as an ambulance driver in France who subsequently escorted German prisoners of war back to their homeland after the armistice was signed to end the armed conflict; and

Whereas, after his discharge in 1920, Frank Buckles joined the White Star Line of Titanic fame as a merchant seaman, and he was in the Philippines in 1941 when the Japanese invaded the island nation after first bombing Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and

Whereas, Frank Buckles spent thirty-nine months in a civilian prisoner of war camp at Los Baños where he lost one hundred pounds and played an integral role in maintaining the mental and physical health of his fellow prisoners before being liberated by paratroopers from the 11th Airborne Division; and

Whereas, Frank Buckles returned to the United States, married a California girl named Audrey, and settled down on his ancestral homeland of northwest West Virginia where he bought and restored the 18th century stone farmhouse in which he still lives; and

Whereas, now one hundred seven years of age, Frank Buckles was given well deserved public honors and accolades in March 2008 when he met President George Bush and Defense Secretary Robert Gates at a series of ceremonies conducted at the White House and the Pentagon in light of his special status as the last known United States military veteran of World War I:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join to extend our most sincere gratitude to World War I veteran Frank Buckles and to convey to him our sincere appreciation of his patriotic service during a time of worldwide turmoil; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Frank W. Buckles of Charles Town, West Virginia, as a measure of our esteem.

Offered by _____
Representative Jim Whorton
District No. 3

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session,
do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 2113, adopted April 22, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker